

AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for selectively depositing loose and strapped sheet material such as papers of value and bank notes, comprising:

a transport apparatus arranged to transport the loose sheet material;

~~;~~ and a stacking unit for depositing positioned to receive and stack loose sheet material from the transport apparatus the sheet material, into a deposit device as well as a strapping unit, wherein the deposit device is arranged for selective deposition of loose and strapped sheet material;

a strapping unit arranged to receive a stack of loose sheet material from the stacking unit and strap a stack of loose sheet material, the strapping unit located generally adjacent the stacking unit;

a deposit bin arranged to selectively receive sheet material strapped by the strapping unit and loose sheet material from the stacking unit, the deposit bin located below the stacking unit; and

wherein the deposit device includes a movable plate for selectively depositing sheet material into a the deposit device bin and as well as a diverting sheet material to the strapping unit, the movable plate operable between two modes, wherein in the first mode the movable plate is positioned in a first area below the stacking unit and above a the deposit bin for diverting sheet material to the strapping unit, and in the second mode the movable plate is positioned outside the first area for permitting direct deposit of sheet material into the deposit bin via the stacking unit in a first operating mode for strapping of sheet material, and positioned outside the area of the deposit bin in a second operating mode for direct deposit of loose sheet material into a deposit bin of the deposit device.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit is arranged in swiveling fashion in a door of the apparatus.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~deposit device apparatus~~ is configured as a tandem unit ~~with~~ having two deposit bins each having a stacking unit associated therewith.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~deposit device bin~~ includes a sensor arranged to determine the height of a stack of loose sheet material deposited therein.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~one of the deposit device and the~~ deposit bin contains a vertically displaceable bottom which is displaceable in dependence on the sensor evaluation and a selected operating mode.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowered in steps in the operating mode for strapped deposit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displaceable bottom is lowerable continuously or in steps in the operating mode for loose stacking.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, including a movable clamping apparatus disposed above the movable plate, said clamping apparatus being lowerable onto a stack of sheet material and arranged to deliver the stack to the strapping unit.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, including a gripper arranged to transport the sheet material into the strapping unit.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strapping unit includes a printer for printing the strap with data relating to the sheet material.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended). A method for selectively depositing loose and strapped sheet material ~~such as papers of value and bank notes~~, wherein sheet material is supplied by means of a transport unit to a stacking unit which deposits the sheet material in a deposit unit, comprising the step of: selectively depositing the sheet material in loose and strapped form in a deposit bin of the deposit unit;

wherein:

for a strapped deposit, a movable plate is positioned above the deposit bin, and the sheet material is deposited on said plate until a predetermined number of sheets or predetermined stack height has been reached,

the deposited sheet material is held on the movable plate and guided into a strapping unit with a clamping apparatus or transported into the strapping unit by means of a gripper, and

the movable plate is withdrawn and the stack of strapped sheets is released into the deposit bin.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the movable plate is positioned outside the area of the deposit bin for loose deposit of sheet material in the deposit bin.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 14, including using a sensor to evaluate the height the deposited sheet material occupies within the deposit bin and in accordance with the evaluation lowering a displaceable bottom of the deposit bin sufficiently so that there is enough room for

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depositing a packet of strapped sheet material or a predetermined quantity of loose sheet material in the bin.